

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINGST 06029 01 OF 02 011800Z
ACTION ICAE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /025 W
-----034843 011819Z /47

R 011523Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2629
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 6029

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, CU, JM
SUBJECT: JAMAICANS AT WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

THE JAMAICA'S GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY (API - AGENCY FOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION) ON JULY 31 ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
ON JAMAICA'S PERFORMANCE AT HAVANA: BEGIN QUOTE.

THE JAMAICAN CULTURAL DELEGATION BURST ONTO THE STAGE OF THE
11TH WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS ON SATURDAY NIGHT
WHEN THE FABULOUS FIVE BAND AND THE NATIONAL DANCE THEATRE
COMPANY PERFORMED TO THUNDEROUS OVATION FROM THOUSANDS
OF CUBANS AND JAMAICAN BRIGADISTAS IN THE ANCIENT CATHEDRAL
SQUARE OF OLD HAVANA.

THE SQUARE BEGAN TO FILL UP FROM 6 O'CLOCK DESPITE THE
FACT THAT THE SHOW HAD NO ADVANCE ADVERTISEMENT OWING TO
PROGRAMME HITCHES IN THE 100 ACTIVITY-A-DAY FESTIVAL.
BY THE SCHEDULED START AT 8:30 P.M. THE SQUARE WITH ITS
STONE BUILDINGS DATING BACK TO THE DAYS OF SPANISH COLONIALISM
IN THE 16TH CENTURY WAS OVERFLOWING ITS 5,000 CAPACITY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KINGST 06029 01 OF 02 011800Z

IT WAS CUBAN YOUTH AND OLDSTERS, JAMAICAN CONSTRUCTION
BRIGADE MEMBERS AND VISITORS TO THE FESTIVAL FROM SEVERAL
COUNTRIES ROCKING UNDER THE STARS TO THE REGGAE SOUNDS,
FUNK AND SOUL MUSIC BELTED OUT BY THE FAB FIVE.
THE FABULOUS FIVE BAND IS THE SECOND MOST POPULAR FOREIGN
MUSICAL GROUP IN CUBA, COMING AFTER 'BONEY M'.
THEN IT WAS MOVEMENT - CLASSICAL BALLET IN MODERN DANCE

WHEN THE NDTIC OPENED WITH 'ELEMENTS'. AS THE NDTIC, LED BY REX NETTLEFORD, DANCED IN HAVANA, CUBA, THROUGH 'WONDER, LOVE AND RAISE (SIC), TO THE MUSIC OF STEVIE WONDER, 'DIALOGUE FOR THREE' AND PEAKED THEIR PERFORMANCE WITH THE COLOURFUL, TRADITIONAL KUMINA, EVEN THE ANCIENT GHOSTS OF THE SQUARE ECHOED 'MAS' (MORE).

THE OPENING SPECTACULAR BY THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGH STANDARD BEING ESTABLISHED SO FAR, IN THIS THE LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE OF THE WORLD YOUTH FESTIVALS.

ON FRIDAY, THE FESTIVAL OPENED AT THE LATIN AMERICAN STADIUM IN A FIVE HOUR CEREMONY INCLUDING A GYMNASTIC SPECTACULAR PUT ON BY ABOUT 14,000 CUBAN YOUTH.

RAUL CASTRO, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN COUNCIL OF STATE, DECLARED THE FESTIVAL OFFICIALLY OPEN BEFORE SOME 60,000 INVITED CUBANS, VISITORS, JOURNALISTS AND YOUTH DELEGATIONS.

THE GROWTH AND SPREAD OF THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND SOCIALIST MOVEMENTS IN THE 1970'S WAS STARTLINGLY PORTRAYED IN THE OPENING CEREMONY. 145 DELEGATIONS PARADED BEHIND FLAGS AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST SLOGANS AROUND THE STADIUM TO MAKE THIS THE WIDEST PARTICIPATION EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 KINGST 06029 01 OF 02 011800Z

FESTIVAL MOVEMENT - FROM THE USA, THE CARIBBEAN, AFRICA, EUROPE, ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST TO THE TINY ORIENTAL TIMOR IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION, UNIFORMED IN FESTIVAL 'T' SHIRTS, STEPPED PROUDLY BEHIND THEIR COUNTRY'S FLAG AND RAISED THE FISTS IN UNISON AS THE SOUND OF AN ANTHEM 'FORWARD MARCH AGAINST IMPERIALISM' ECHOED FROM LOUDSPEAKERS AROUND THE STADIUM.

PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO WAS THERE TO PERSONALLY APPLAUD EACH DELEGATION. SHOUTS OF 'FIDEL' FROM 60,000 VOICES GREETED HIS ARRIVAL. SIMILAR OVATIONS WERE GIVEN TO DELEGATIONS FROM COUNTRIES WHICH HAD EITHER ALREADY WON THEIR LIBERATION OR WERE IN THE PROCESS OF FIGHTING FOR IT - CHILE, SOVIET UNION, CUBA, PALESTINE, ETHIOPIA, ZIMBABWE, ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, VIETNAM AND OTHERS. IRVING

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINGST 06029 02 OF 02 011753Z

ACTION ICAE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /025 W

-----034767 011819Z /47

R 011523Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2630

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 6029

BUT THE MARCH OF THE DELEGATIONS WAS JUST ONE PART OF A CEREMONY SO VASE, SO COLOURFUL, SO IMPRESSIVE, THAT ALL DELEGATES INTERVIEWED BY THE JAMAICAN MEDIA TEAM SAID THEY COULD NOT FIND WORDS TO DESCRIBE IT. NOT EVEN THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR WHICH CAME AN HOUR BEFORE THE SCHEDULED START OF THE OPENING AND FORCED FEVERISH ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE CUBANS TO REPARE THE FIELD IN TIME COULD DAMPEN THE SPIRIT OF THE CEREMONY.

THERE WERE MANY HIGH POINTS - THE HUMAN SIGNBOARD MADE UP OF 4,500 CUBAN TECHNICAL STUDENTS WHO, USING FESTIVAL COLOURED COSTUMES AND POLYGON BANNERS FORMED 48 DIFFERENT PICTURES IN KEEPING WITH EACH ACTIVITY IN THE CEREMONY: THE PASSING OVER OF THE FESTIVAL FLAG FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO CUBA; THE TORCH LIGHTING CEREMONY BY CUBAN OLYMPIC CHAMPION, ALBERTO JUANTORENA; THE GYMNASIAC PERFORMANCE BY OVER 1,000 CUBAN FIVE-YEAR-OLDS WHO ATTEND DAY CARE CENTRES. THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CEREMONY.

A LEADER OF THE JAMAICAN YOUTH DELEGATION SUMMARIZED HIS IMPRESSION OF THE EXPERIENCE WITH: 'MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KINGST 06029 02 OF 02 011753Z

ALL THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE DID NOT SEE THIS. IT COULD TEACH US SO MUCH IN OUR OWN STRUGGLE.'

IN THE MEANTIME, THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION WILL TONIGHT
ENTERTAIN ALL OF THE FESTIVAL AT THE 'JAMAICA NITE' WHEN
THE ENTIRE CULTURAL GROUP WILL PERFORM BEFORE TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ON A REVOLVING STAGE IN THE MIDDLE OF
A LAKE IN THE HISTORIC LENIN PARK OF HAVANA. - API.
END QUOTE.
IRVING

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, YOUTH FESTIVALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINGST06029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780314-1134
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808113/aaaadqxl.tel
Line Count: 177
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9a306b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ICAE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1580764
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAMAICANS AT WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL THE JAMAICA'S GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY (API - AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION) ON JULY 31 ISSUED THE FOLLOWIN
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, CU, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9a306b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014